

Message Text

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16

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: TESLA COMMERATIVES IN U.S.

REF: A. ZAGREB 209

B. STATE 075824

1. FORMER YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK, MILAN BULAJIC, WHO SINCE OUR LAST CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL A HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE YUGOSLAV FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO WORK ON THE NIKOLA TESLA COMMERATIVE EVENTS IN THE U.S. AND IN YUGO-SLAVIA, TELEPHONED TODAY, APRIL 6. HE EXPLAINED THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS REPORT AND THE ASSURANCES HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE NEW YORK STATE PARK COMMISSION, THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS APPROPRIATED 720,000 DINARS (EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT US 40,000) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TESLA MONUMENT AT NIAGARA FALLS AS PART OF THE PLANNED JULY 10 CELEBRATIONS. BULAJIC SAID THAT HE FINDS HIMSELF IN AN "AWKWARD POSITION": HIGHER YUGO-SLAV AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED HIM FOR OFFICIAL ASSURANCES (WHICH HE DOES NOT YET HAVE) THAT NEW YORK STATE AUTHORITIES APPROVE AND HAVE IN FACT ACCEPTED THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE TESLA MONUMENT.

2. WHEN I INFORMED BULAJIC THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL, MILJENKO PARAVIC, IN MEETINGS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON HAD ASKED THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND/OR ARBA CONTACT NEW YORK STATE TO URGE THE EXPEDITIOUS ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF

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THE TESLA MONUMENT TO MEET THE JULY 10 DATE (REFTEL B, PARA 6),

BULAJIC EXPRESSED SURPRISE. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SEPARATE LEGISLATION WAS NOT NECESSARY AND THOUGHT THAT THE MONUMENT COULD BE AUTHORIZED BY THE NEW YORK STATE PARK COMMISSION. HE SOUNDED SOMEWHAT AGITATED AND WORRIED THAT THE U.S. SIDE MIGHT NOT ACT QUICKLY ENOUGH TO MATCH THE ACTION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT IN AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE 720,000 DINARS FOR THE TESLA MONUMENT. HE ASKED THAT WE INQUIRE AND INFORM HIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PLANNED PROJECT. PLEASE ADVISE.
KAISER

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